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Chair, Committee on Superior Court

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:)	
)	Supreme Court No. R-09-0016
Petition to Establish a Rule)	
Setting Guidelines for Jury Service)	Comment to Petition to Establish a Rule
by Court Employees)	Setting Guidelines for Jury Service
)	by Court Employees
_____)	

The Committee on Superior Court (COSC) has authorized its chair, the Honorable James A. Soto, to file this comment on the committee's behalf.

The committee opposes Petition No. R-09-0016 in its entirety. The consequences of excluding court employees from jury service in the courts in which they are employed are many. First, such a rule would be discriminatory to court employees and would disenfranchise them from jury participation. Second, the petitioner has not identified any problems of sufficient severity to warrant such a rule change. Court employees, as a result of training they have received regarding their roles, are even better able to understand the separation between their duties as court employees and the obligation to serve as impartial jurors. Furthermore, by excluding court employees from jury service, the pool of available jurors would decrease, while the costs associated with summoning additional jurors would increase. In addition, such a rule change could exacerbate the public perception that court employees receive special treatment.

Finally, others have asked to be exempted from jury service because of the classification of their employment. Creation of yet another class of persons who are exempt because of their job classification makes it more difficult to defend the proposition that all Arizona citizens should be required to participate as jurors in the justice system.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, COSC respectfully requests the Court to reject Petition No. R-09-0016 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted this ____th day of May, 2010.

Hon. James A. Soto
Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court in Santa Cruz County